

VZCZCXRO7821  
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK  
DE RUEHGB #1116 1001953  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 091953Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6779  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001116

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/2017  
TAGS: [IZ](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [SENV](#)  
SUBJECT: IESC MEETING MARCH 14

Classified By: Deputy Political Counselor Greg D'Elia for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

¶1. (C) Summary: This cable is a record of the meeting notes from the March 14 Iraqi Executive Steering Committee (IESC) in support of Operation Fardh al-Qanoon (FaQ), chaired by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The lightly attended and relatively brief meeting featured an update on discussions concerning the testing of Baghdad's water quality and the presentation of a Government of Iraq (GoI) report assessing the accomplishments of FaQ. The widely praised report was seen as a good effort by the Deputy Committee of the IESC, but its analysis was also criticized for being overly positive and lacking accuracy. (Note. The Deputy Committee has met a number of times with Embassy and MNFI personnel since the March 14 meeting to discuss the FaQ report and improve its accuracy prior to publication. End Note.) End Summary.

#### Water Quality

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¶2. (C) The Minister of Environment briefed that a deputy level working group was formed to provide technical solutions to Baghdad's short and long term water quality woes. The Minister also added that the Ministry of Environment would expand the number of water samples taken and increase the monitoring of wells. The Provincial Council Chairman repeated previous claims that the Ministry of Environment's testing method was flawed and urged that a coordinated sample be taken by a joint committee involving the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment and the Amanat (city hall).

#### Iraqi FaQ Assessment

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¶3. (C) Ali Yaseri, IESC Co-Secretary, presented a report on the activities and accomplishments of Fardh al-Qanoon over the last year. In particular, the report highlighted the activities of the Deputy Committee that supports and coordinates IESC agenda topics and directives. The PM, the BOC commander and Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih praised the Deputy Committee and the progress in Baghdad over the course of past year. Both the Prime Minister and Ambassador Crocker urged Yaseri to review the accuracy of the data in the report prior to its distribution to regional and international press outlets.

¶4. (C) Comment: The report was much more substantive than typical GoI products and its attempt to assess services and security improvements in Baghdad was a noteworthy effort. However, the overly celebratory language used in assessing security and service improvements caused some GoI and USG officials to question its readiness for wider distribution. NSA Dr. Rubaie told us that the report should not be made public until it has been vetted for accuracy in tandem with the Coalition. MNFI and Embassy officials are engaging with Yaseri to improve the report's accuracy and to assist in the creation of a separate media pack that would more

appropriately mark the one-year anniversary of Operation  
Fardh al-Qanoon. End Comment.  
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